



Toi Te Ora Public Health
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10 November 2017

Rotorua Lakes Council
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Feedback on “Planning for the Future of Rotorua: 2017 Draft Spatial Plan Consultation Document”

The Lakes District Health Board (Lakes DHB) is responsible for planning, funding and providing health services to the Lakes Region and has a vision of Mauriora (Healthy Communities). Toi Te Ora Public Health (Toi Te Ora) is the public health unit for the Bay of Plenty and Lakes Districts with a role to protect, promote and improve population health and prevent ill health through population based interventions.

The health and wellbeing of communities is influenced by the decisions and activities of councils. Lakes DHB and Toi Te Ora are committed to working collaboratively with councils and welcome the opportunity to comment on Rotorua’s draft spatial plan.

We commend Rotorua Lakes Council on the development of the draft spatial plan which recognises the importance of creating an ‘inclusive, equitable and sustainable community.’

Lakes DHB and Toi Te Ora support the list of actions in the plan, many of which will influence the wellbeing of the community, specifically:

- **Build homes that match needs:** Ensuring the availability of affordable and appropriate housing for different needs is essential for protecting vulnerable populations and improving wellbeing.
- **Create thriving neighbourhoods:** The principle of creating neighbourhoods that “enhance social connection between people, access to work, schools, health providers, public spaces, and retail, safety and wellbeing” will contribute to equity and overall wellbeing.
- **Enhance our playgrounds and environment:** Protecting and enhancing the natural environment, providing green space and recreational facilities, providing infrastructure to encourage alternative transport to driving, and creating connections through the

green links network will improve wellbeing by creating an active community and supporting sustainability.

- **Support iwi aspirations:** Working collaboratively with iwi contributes to equity and enhances wellbeing.
- **Create a vibrant city heart:** Supporting inner city housing instead of urban sprawl and improving community connections encourages an active community, and enhances sustainability.
- **Grow jobs:** Efforts to grow employment opportunities should reduce inequality and improve wellbeing. It will be important to have buffer zones between industrial areas and residential areas to reduce the impact of noise, dust and industrial traffic on the wellbeing of residents.
- **Building supporting infrastructure:** Ensuring infrastructure grows along with industrial and residential development will ensure the needs of the community are met.

Recommendations:

- It is acknowledged that identifying areas for new homes is important for addressing growth pressures. However, we also recommend improving existing housing stock and amenities, as outlined in our previous submission on the Spatial Plan in May, 2017.
- Addressing capacity and supply issues for reticulated water and sewerage systems is essential. Individual onsite sewage systems are not suitable for growing communities. It is crucial for the future wellbeing of Rotorua that developments are serviced from the outset with reticulated services that are professionally designed and operated. Improving existing housing stock, as mentioned above, must include fixing wastewater systems in all lakeside communities.
- The delivery of safe drinking water and wastewater services must be a priority. The spatial plan should also consider the needs of the community for other sanitary services such as cemeteries, public toilets, storm water and waste management (which includes waste minimisation).
- It is acknowledged that protecting water quality has been outlined as a priority. However, protecting land and air should also be included as priorities.

Toi Te Ora would welcome the opportunity to be involved with the development of the Council's housing strategy. We are also available to provide input to other objectives where appropriate.

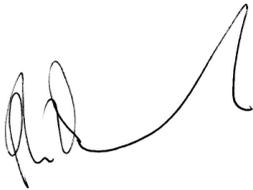
For more information about the details of this submission please contact Alice Walker on either 07 577 3772 or email. alice.walker@bopdhb.govt.nz .

For further information, please also refer to:

- Toi Te Ora position statement on Housing:
<https://www.ttphs.govt.nz/vdb/document/1532>

- Toi Te Ora position statement on Active Transport:
<https://www.ttophs.govt.nz/vdb/document/553>
- Toi Te Ora position statement on Waste Management and Minimisation:
<https://www.ttophs.govt.nz/vdb/document/819>
- Toi Te Ora's *Issues of Health and Wellbeing – 2016 Population Survey* which outlines views from a random selection of Lakes DHB residents about the impact of a range of health related issues: <https://www.ttophs.govt.nz/populationsurvey>

Yours sincerely



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Toi Te Ora Public Health



Ron Dunham
Chief Executive Officer
Lakes District Health Board